

MARCH 10, 2017

**RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-9**  
**TEXT OF H.R. 1101, SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH**  
**FAIRNESS ACT OF 2017**

**[Showing the text of H.R. 1101 as ordered reported by the  
Committee on Education and the Workforce]**

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2017”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
Sec. 2. Rules governing association health plans.  
Sec. 3. Clarification of treatment of single employer arrangements.  
Sec. 4. Enforcement provisions relating to association health plans.  
Sec. 5. Cooperation between Federal and State authorities.  
Sec. 6. Effective date and transitional and other rules.

6 **SEC. 2. RULES GOVERNING ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title I of the Em-  
8 ployee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amend-  
9 ed by adding after part 7 the following new part:

10 **“PART 8—RULES GOVERNING ASSOCIATION**  
11 **HEALTH PLANS**

12 **“SEC. 801. ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this part, the  
14 term ‘association health plan’ means a group health plan

1 whose sponsor is (or is deemed under this part to be) de-  
2 scribed in subsection (b).

3 “(b) SPONSORSHIP.—The sponsor of a group health  
4 plan is described in this subsection if such sponsor—

5 “(1) is organized and maintained in good faith,  
6 with a constitution and bylaws specifically stating its  
7 purpose and providing for periodic meetings on at  
8 least an annual basis, as a bona fide trade associa-  
9 tion, a bona fide industry association (including a  
10 rural electric cooperative association or a rural tele-  
11 phone cooperative association), a bona fide profes-  
12 sional association, or a bona fide chamber of com-  
13 merce (or similar bona fide business association, in-  
14 cluding a corporation or similar organization that  
15 operates on a cooperative basis (within the meaning  
16 of section 1381 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
17 1986)), for substantial purposes other than that of  
18 obtaining or providing medical care;

19 “(2) is established as a permanent entity which  
20 receives the active support of its members and re-  
21 quires for membership payment on a periodic basis  
22 of dues or payments necessary to maintain eligibility  
23 for membership in the sponsor; and

24 “(3) does not condition membership, such dues  
25 or payments, or coverage under the plan on the

1 basis of health status-related factors with respect to  
2 the employees of its members (or affiliated mem-  
3 bers), or the dependents of such employees, and does  
4 not condition such dues or payments on the basis of  
5 group health plan participation.

6 Any sponsor consisting of an association of entities which  
7 meet the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (3)  
8 shall be deemed to be a sponsor described in this sub-  
9 section.

10 **“SEC. 802. CERTIFICATION OF ASSOCIATION HEALTH**  
11 **PLANS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The applicable authority shall  
13 prescribe by regulation a procedure under which, subject  
14 to subsection (b), the applicable authority shall certify as-  
15 sociation health plans which apply for certification as  
16 meeting the requirements of this part.

17 “(b) STANDARDS.—Under the procedure prescribed  
18 pursuant to subsection (a), in the case of an association  
19 health plan that provides at least one benefit option which  
20 does not consist of health insurance coverage, the applica-  
21 ble authority shall certify such plan as meeting the re-  
22 quirements of this part only if the applicable authority is  
23 satisfied that the applicable requirements of this part are  
24 met (or, upon the date on which the plan is to commence  
25 operations, will be met) with respect to the plan.

1       “(c) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CERTIFIED  
2 PLANS.—An association health plan with respect to which  
3 certification under this part is in effect shall meet the ap-  
4 plicable requirements of this part, effective on the date  
5 of certification (or, if later, on the date on which the plan  
6 is to commence operations).

7       “(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUED CERTIFI-  
8 CATION.—The applicable authority may provide by regula-  
9 tion for continued certification of association health plans  
10 under this part.

11       “(e) CLASS CERTIFICATION FOR FULLY INSURED  
12 PLANS.—The applicable authority shall establish a class  
13 certification procedure for association health plans under  
14 which all benefits consist of health insurance coverage.  
15 Under such procedure, the applicable authority shall pro-  
16 vide for the granting of certification under this part to  
17 the plans in each class of such association health plans  
18 upon appropriate filing under such procedure in connec-  
19 tion with plans in such class and payment of the pre-  
20 scribed fee under section 807(a).

21       “(f) CERTIFICATION OF SELF-INSURED ASSOCIATION  
22 HEALTH PLANS.—An association health plan which offers  
23 one or more benefit options which do not consist of health  
24 insurance coverage may be certified under this part only  
25 if such plan consists of any of the following:

1           “(1) A plan which offered such coverage on the  
2           date of the enactment of the Small Business Health  
3           Fairness Act of 2017.

4           “(2) A plan under which the sponsor does not  
5           restrict membership to one or more trades and busi-  
6           nesses or industries and whose eligible participating  
7           employers represent a broad cross-section of trades  
8           and businesses or industries.

9           “(3) A plan whose eligible participating employ-  
10          ers represent one or more trades or businesses, or  
11          one or more industries, consisting of any of the fol-  
12          lowing: agriculture; equipment and automobile deal-  
13          erships; barbering and cosmetology; certified public  
14          accounting practices; child care; construction; dance,  
15          theatrical and orchestra productions; disinfecting  
16          and pest control; financial services; fishing; food  
17          service establishments; hospitals; labor organiza-  
18          tions; logging; manufacturing (metals); mining; med-  
19          ical and dental practices; medical laboratories; pro-  
20          fessional consulting services; sanitary services; trans-  
21          portation (local and freight); warehousing; whole-  
22          saling/distributing; or any other trade or business or  
23          industry which has been indicated as having average  
24          or above-average risk or health claims experience by  
25          reason of State rate filings, denials of coverage, pro-

1 posed premium rate levels, or other means dem-  
2 onstrated by such plan in accordance with regula-  
3 tions.

4 **“SEC. 803. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SPONSORS AND**  
5 **BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.**

6 “(a) SPONSOR.—The requirements of this subsection  
7 are met with respect to an association health plan if the  
8 sponsor has met (or is deemed under this part to have  
9 met) the requirements of section 801(b) for a continuous  
10 period of not less than 3 years ending with the date of  
11 the application for certification under this part.

12 “(b) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—The requirements of  
13 this subsection are met with respect to an association  
14 health plan if the following requirements are met:

15 “(1) FISCAL CONTROL.—The plan is operated,  
16 pursuant to a trust agreement, by a board of trust-  
17 ees which has complete fiscal control over the plan  
18 and which is responsible for all operations of the  
19 plan.

20 “(2) RULES OF OPERATION AND FINANCIAL  
21 CONTROLS.—The board of trustees has in effect  
22 rules of operation and financial controls, based on a  
23 3-year plan of operation, adequate to carry out the  
24 terms of the plan and to meet all requirements of  
25 this title applicable to the plan.

1           “(3) RULES GOVERNING RELATIONSHIP TO  
2 PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS AND TO CONTRAC-  
3 TORS.—

4           “(A) BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

5           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
6 vided in clauses (ii) and (iii), the members  
7 of the board of trustees are individuals se-  
8 lected from individuals who are the owners,  
9 officers, directors, or employees of the par-  
10 ticipating employers or who are partners in  
11 the participating employers and actively  
12 participate in the business.

13           “(ii) LIMITATION.—

14           “(I) GENERAL RULE.—Except as  
15 provided in subclauses (II) and (III),  
16 no such member is an owner, officer,  
17 director, or employee of, or partner in,  
18 a contract administrator or other  
19 service provider to the plan.

20           “(II) LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR  
21 PROVIDERS OF SERVICES SOLELY ON  
22 BEHALF OF THE SPONSOR.—Officers  
23 or employees of a sponsor which is a  
24 service provider (other than a contract  
25 administrator) to the plan may be

1 members of the board if they con-  
2 stitute not more than 25 percent of  
3 the membership of the board and they  
4 do not provide services to the plan  
5 other than on behalf of the sponsor.

6 “(III) TREATMENT OF PRO-  
7 VIDERS OF MEDICAL CARE.—In the  
8 case of a sponsor which is an associa-  
9 tion whose membership consists pri-  
10 marily of providers of medical care,  
11 subclause (I) shall not apply in the  
12 case of any service provider described  
13 in subclause (I) who is a provider of  
14 medical care under the plan.

15 “(iii) CERTAIN PLANS EXCLUDED.—  
16 Clause (i) shall not apply to an association  
17 health plan which is in existence on the  
18 date of the enactment of the Small Busi-  
19 ness Health Fairness Act of 2017.

20 “(B) SOLE AUTHORITY.—The board has  
21 sole authority under the plan to approve appli-  
22 cations for participation in the plan and to con-  
23 tract with a service provider to administer the  
24 day-to-day affairs of the plan.



1       “(c) TREATMENT OF FRANCHISE NETWORKS.—In  
2 the case of a group health plan which is established and  
3 maintained by a franchiser for a franchise network con-  
4 sisting of its franchisees—

5               “(1) the requirements of subsection (a) and sec-  
6 tion 801(a) shall be deemed met if such require-  
7 ments would otherwise be met if the franchiser were  
8 deemed to be the sponsor referred to in section  
9 801(b), such network were deemed to be an associa-  
10 tion described in section 801(b), and each franchisee  
11 were deemed to be a member (of the association and  
12 the sponsor) referred to in section 801(b); and

13               “(2) the requirements of section 804(a)(1) shall  
14 be deemed met.

15 The Secretary may by regulation define for purposes of  
16 this subsection the terms ‘franchiser’, ‘franchise network’,  
17 and ‘franchisee’.

18 **“SEC. 804. PARTICIPATION AND COVERAGE REQUIRE-**  
19 **MENTS.**

20       “(a) COVERED EMPLOYERS AND INDIVIDUALS.—The  
21 requirements of this subsection are met with respect to  
22 an association health plan if, under the terms of the  
23 plan—

24               “(1) each participating employer must be—

25                       “(A) a member of the sponsor,

1 “(B) the sponsor, or

2 “(C) an affiliated member of the sponsor  
3 with respect to which the requirements of sub-  
4 section (b) are met,

5 except that, in the case of a sponsor which is a pro-  
6 fessional association or other individual-based asso-  
7 ciation, if at least one of the officers, directors, or  
8 employees of an employer, or at least one of the in-  
9 dividuals who are partners in an employer and who  
10 actively participates in the business, is a member or  
11 such an affiliated member of the sponsor, partici-  
12 pating employers may also include such employer;  
13 and

14 “(2) all individuals commencing coverage under  
15 the plan after certification under this part must  
16 be—

17 “(A) active or retired owners (including  
18 self-employed individuals), officers, directors, or  
19 employees of, or partners in, participating em-  
20 ployers; or

21 “(B) the beneficiaries of individuals de-  
22 scribed in subparagraph (A).

23 “(b) COVERAGE OF PREVIOUSLY UNINSURED EM-  
24 PLOYEES.—In the case of an association health plan in  
25 existence on the date of the enactment of the Small Busi-

1 ness Health Fairness Act of 2017, an affiliated member  
2 of the sponsor of the plan may be offered coverage under  
3 the plan as a participating employer only if—

4 “(1) the affiliated member was an affiliated  
5 member on the date of certification under this part;  
6 or

7 “(2) during the 12-month period preceding the  
8 date of the offering of such coverage, the affiliated  
9 member has not maintained or contributed to a  
10 group health plan with respect to any of its employ-  
11 ees who would otherwise be eligible to participate in  
12 such association health plan.

13 “(c) INDIVIDUAL MARKET UNAFFECTED.—The re-  
14 quirements of this subsection are met with respect to an  
15 association health plan if, under the terms of the plan,  
16 no participating employer may provide health insurance  
17 coverage in the individual market for any employee not  
18 covered under the plan which is similar to the coverage  
19 contemporaneously provided to employees of the employer  
20 under the plan, if such exclusion of the employee from cov-  
21 erage under the plan is based on a health status-related  
22 factor with respect to the employee and such employee  
23 would, but for such exclusion on such basis, be eligible  
24 for coverage under the plan.

1       “(d) PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST  
2 EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE TO PARTICI-  
3 PATE.—The requirements of this subsection are met with  
4 respect to an association health plan if—

5           “(1) under the terms of the plan, all employers  
6 meeting the preceding requirements of this section  
7 are eligible to qualify as participating employers for  
8 all geographically available coverage options, unless,  
9 in the case of any such employer, participation or  
10 contribution requirements of the type referred to in  
11 section 2711 of the Public Health Service Act are  
12 not met;

13           “(2) upon request, any employer eligible to par-  
14 ticipate is furnished information regarding all cov-  
15 erage options available under the plan; and

16           “(3) the applicable requirements of sections  
17 701, 702, and 703 are met with respect to the plan.

18 **“SEC. 805. OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PLAN**  
19 **DOCUMENTS, CONTRIBUTION RATES, AND**  
20 **BENEFIT OPTIONS.**

21       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this section  
22 are met with respect to an association health plan if the  
23 following requirements are met:

24           “(1) CONTENTS OF GOVERNING INSTRU-  
25 MENTS.—The instruments governing the plan in-

1       clude a written instrument, meeting the require-  
2       ments of an instrument required under section  
3       402(a)(1), which—

4               “(A) provides that the board of trustees  
5       serves as the named fiduciary required for plans  
6       under section 402(a)(1) and serves in the ca-  
7       pacity of a plan administrator (referred to in  
8       section 3(16)(A));

9               “(B) provides that the sponsor of the plan  
10      is to serve as plan sponsor (referred to in sec-  
11      tion 3(16)(B)); and

12              “(C) incorporates the requirements of sec-  
13      tion 806.

14              “(2) CONTRIBUTION RATES MUST BE NON-  
15      DISCRIMINATORY.—

16              “(A) The contribution rates for any par-  
17      ticipating small employer do not vary on the  
18      basis of any health status-related factor in rela-  
19      tion to employees of such employer or their  
20      beneficiaries and do not vary on the basis of the  
21      type of business or industry in which such em-  
22      ployer is engaged.

23              “(B) Nothing in this title or any other pro-  
24      vision of law shall be construed to preclude an  
25      association health plan, or a health insurance

1 issuer offering health insurance coverage in  
2 connection with an association health plan,  
3 from—

4 “(i) setting contribution rates based  
5 on the claims experience of the plan; or

6 “(ii) varying contribution rates for  
7 small employers in a State to the extent  
8 that such rates could vary using the same  
9 methodology employed in such State for  
10 regulating premium rates in the small  
11 group market with respect to health insur-  
12 ance coverage offered in connection with  
13 bona fide associations (within the meaning  
14 of section 2791(d)(3) of the Public Health  
15 Service Act),

16 subject to the requirements of section 702(b)  
17 relating to contribution rates.

18 “(3) FLOOR FOR NUMBER OF COVERED INDIVIDUALS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PLANS.—If  
19 any benefit option under the plan does not consist  
20 of health insurance coverage, the plan has as of the  
21 beginning of the plan year not fewer than 1,000 participants and beneficiaries.

24 “(4) MARKETING REQUIREMENTS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a benefit option  
2           which consists of health insurance coverage is  
3           offered under the plan, State-licensed insurance  
4           agents shall be used to distribute to small em-  
5           ployers coverage which does not consist of  
6           health insurance coverage in a manner com-  
7           parable to the manner in which such agents are  
8           used to distribute health insurance coverage.

9           “(B) STATE-LICENSED INSURANCE  
10          AGENTS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A),  
11          the term ‘State-licensed insurance agents’  
12          means one or more agents who are licensed in  
13          a State and are subject to the laws of such  
14          State relating to licensure, qualification, test-  
15          ing, examination, and continuing education of  
16          persons authorized to offer, sell, or solicit  
17          health insurance coverage in such State.

18          “(5) REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—Such  
19          other requirements as the applicable authority deter-  
20          mines are necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
21          part, which shall be prescribed by the applicable au-  
22          thority by regulation.

23          “(b) ABILITY OF ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS TO  
24          DESIGN BENEFIT OPTIONS.—Subject to section 514(d),  
25          nothing in this part or any provision of State law (as de-

1    fined in section 514(c)(1)) shall be construed to preclude  
2    an association health plan, or a health insurance issuer  
3    offering health insurance coverage in connection with an  
4    association health plan, from exercising its sole discretion  
5    in selecting the specific items and services consisting of  
6    medical care to be included as benefits under such plan  
7    or coverage, except (subject to section 514) in the case  
8    of (1) any law to the extent that it is not preempted under  
9    section 731(a)(1) with respect to matters governed by sec-  
10   tion 711, 712, or 713, or (2) any law of the State with  
11   which filing and approval of a policy type offered by the  
12   plan was initially obtained to the extent that such law pro-  
13   hibits an exclusion of a specific disease from such cov-  
14   erage.

15   **“SEC. 806. MAINTENANCE OF RESERVES AND PROVISIONS**  
16                   **FOR SOLVENCY FOR PLANS PROVIDING**  
17                   **HEALTH BENEFITS IN ADDITION TO HEALTH**  
18                   **INSURANCE COVERAGE.**

19       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this section  
20   are met with respect to an association health plan if—

21               “(1) the benefits under the plan consist solely  
22       of health insurance coverage; or

23               “(2) if the plan provides any additional benefit  
24       options which do not consist of health insurance cov-  
25       erage, the plan—



1           “(A) establishes and maintains reserves  
2           with respect to such additional benefit options,  
3           in amounts recommended by the qualified actu-  
4           ary, consisting of—

5                   “(i) a reserve sufficient for unearned  
6                   contributions;

7                   “(ii) a reserve sufficient for benefit li-  
8                   abilities which have been incurred, which  
9                   have not been satisfied, and for which risk  
10                  of loss has not yet been transferred, and  
11                  for expected administrative costs with re-  
12                  spect to such benefit liabilities;

13                  “(iii) a reserve sufficient for any other  
14                  obligations of the plan; and

15                  “(iv) a reserve sufficient for a margin  
16                  of error and other fluctuations, taking into  
17                  account the specific circumstances of the  
18                  plan; and

19           “(B) establishes and maintains aggregate  
20           and specific excess/stop loss insurance and sol-  
21           vency indemnification, with respect to such ad-  
22           ditional benefit options for which risk of loss  
23           has not yet been transferred, as follows:

24                   “(i) The plan shall secure aggregate  
25                   excess/stop loss insurance for the plan with

1 an attachment point which is not greater  
2 than 125 percent of expected gross annual  
3 claims. The applicable authority may by  
4 regulation provide for upward adjustments  
5 in the amount of such percentage in speci-  
6 fied circumstances in which the plan spe-  
7 cifically provides for and maintains re-  
8 serves in excess of the amounts required  
9 under subparagraph (A).

10 “(ii) The plan shall secure specific ex-  
11 cess/stop loss insurance for the plan with  
12 an attachment point which is at least equal  
13 to an amount recommended by the plan’s  
14 qualified actuary. The applicable authority  
15 may by regulation provide for adjustments  
16 in the amount of such insurance in speci-  
17 fied circumstances in which the plan spe-  
18 cifically provides for and maintains re-  
19 serves in excess of the amounts required  
20 under subparagraph (A).

21 “(iii) The plan shall secure indem-  
22 nification insurance for any claims which  
23 the plan is unable to satisfy by reason of  
24 a plan termination.

1 Any person issuing to a plan insurance described in clause  
2 (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (B) shall notify the Sec-  
3 retary of any failure of premium payment meriting can-  
4 cellation of the policy prior to undertaking such a cancella-  
5 tion. Any regulations prescribed by the applicable author-  
6 ity pursuant to clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) may  
7 allow for such adjustments in the required levels of excess/  
8 stop loss insurance as the qualified actuary may rec-  
9 ommend, taking into account the specific circumstances  
10 of the plan.

11 “(b) MINIMUM SURPLUS IN ADDITION TO CLAIMS  
12 RESERVES.—In the case of any association health plan de-  
13 scribed in subsection (a)(2), the requirements of this sub-  
14 section are met if the plan establishes and maintains sur-  
15 plus in an amount at least equal to—

16 “(1) \$500,000, or

17 “(2) such greater amount (but not greater than  
18 \$2,000,000) as may be set forth in regulations pre-  
19 scribed by the applicable authority, considering the  
20 level of aggregate and specific excess/stop loss insur-  
21 ance provided with respect to such plan and other  
22 factors related to solvency risk, such as the plan’s  
23 projected levels of participation or claims, the nature  
24 of the plan’s liabilities, and the types of assets avail-  
25 able to assure that such liabilities are met.

1       “(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In the case of  
2 any association health plan described in subsection (a)(2),  
3 the applicable authority may provide such additional re-  
4 quirements relating to reserves, excess/stop loss insurance,  
5 and indemnification insurance as the applicable authority  
6 considers appropriate. Such requirements may be provided  
7 by regulation with respect to any such plan or any class  
8 of such plans.

9       “(d) ADJUSTMENTS FOR EXCESS/STOP LOSS INSUR-  
10 ANCE.—The applicable authority may provide for adjust-  
11 ments to the levels of reserves otherwise required under  
12 subsections (a) and (b) with respect to any plan or class  
13 of plans to take into account excess/stop loss insurance  
14 provided with respect to such plan or plans.

15       “(e) ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF COMPLIANCE.—The  
16 applicable authority may permit an association health plan  
17 described in subsection (a)(2) to substitute, for all or part  
18 of the requirements of this section (except subsection  
19 (a)(2)(B)(iii)), such security, guarantee, hold-harmless ar-  
20 rangement, or other financial arrangement as the applica-  
21 ble authority determines to be adequate to enable the plan  
22 to fully meet all its financial obligations on a timely basis  
23 and is otherwise no less protective of the interests of par-  
24 ticipants and beneficiaries than the requirements for  
25 which it is substituted. The applicable authority may take

1 into account, for purposes of this subsection, evidence pro-  
2 vided by the plan or sponsor which demonstrates an as-  
3 sumption of liability with respect to the plan. Such evi-  
4 dence may be in the form of a contract of indemnification,  
5 lien, bonding, insurance, letter of credit, recourse under  
6 applicable terms of the plan in the form of assessments  
7 of participating employers, security, or other financial ar-  
8 rangement.

9 “(f) MEASURES TO ENSURE CONTINUED PAYMENT  
10 OF BENEFITS BY CERTAIN PLANS IN DISTRESS.—

11 “(1) PAYMENTS BY CERTAIN PLANS TO ASSO-  
12 CIATION HEALTH PLAN FUND.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an as-  
14 sociation health plan described in subsection  
15 (a)(2), the requirements of this subsection are  
16 met if the plan makes payments into the Asso-  
17 ciation Health Plan Fund under this subpara-  
18 graph when they are due. Such payments shall  
19 consist of annual payments in the amount of  
20 \$5,000, and, in addition to such annual pay-  
21 ments, such supplemental payments as the Sec-  
22 retary may determine to be necessary under  
23 paragraph (2). Payments under this paragraph  
24 are payable to the Fund at the time determined  
25 by the Secretary. Initial payments are due in

1 advance of certification under this part. Pay-  
2 ments shall continue to accrue until a plan's as-  
3 sets are distributed pursuant to a termination  
4 procedure.

5 “(B) PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO MAKE  
6 PAYMENTS.—If any payment is not made by a  
7 plan when it is due, a late payment charge of  
8 not more than 100 percent of the payment  
9 which was not timely paid shall be payable by  
10 the plan to the Fund.

11 “(C) CONTINUED DUTY OF THE SEC-  
12 RETARY.—The Secretary shall not cease to  
13 carry out the provisions of paragraph (2) on ac-  
14 count of the failure of a plan to pay any pay-  
15 ment when due.

16 “(2) PAYMENTS BY SECRETARY TO CONTINUE  
17 EXCESS/STOP LOSS INSURANCE COVERAGE AND IN-  
18 DEMNIFICATION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CER-  
19 TAIN PLANS.—In any case in which the applicable  
20 authority determines that there is, or that there is  
21 reason to believe that there will be: (A) A failure to  
22 take necessary corrective actions under section  
23 809(a) with respect to an association health plan de-  
24 scribed in subsection (a)(2); or (B) a termination of  
25 such a plan under section 809(b) or 810(b)(8) (and,

1 if the applicable authority is not the Secretary, cer-  
2 tifies such determination to the Secretary), the Sec-  
3 retary shall determine the amounts necessary to  
4 make payments to an insurer (designated by the  
5 Secretary) to maintain in force excess/stop loss in-  
6 surance coverage or indemnification insurance cov-  
7 erage for such plan, if the Secretary determines that  
8 there is a reasonable expectation that, without such  
9 payments, claims would not be satisfied by reason of  
10 termination of such coverage. The Secretary shall, to  
11 the extent provided in advance in appropriation  
12 Acts, pay such amounts so determined to the insurer  
13 designated by the Secretary.

14 “(3) ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLAN FUND.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established  
16 on the books of the Treasury a fund to be  
17 known as the ‘Association Health Plan Fund’.  
18 The Fund shall be available for making pay-  
19 ments pursuant to paragraph (2). The Fund  
20 shall be credited with payments received pursu-  
21 ant to paragraph (1)(A), penalties received pur-  
22 suant to paragraph (1)(B); and earnings on in-  
23 vestments of amounts of the Fund under sub-  
24 paragraph (B).

1           “(B) INVESTMENT.—Whenever the Sec-  
2           retary determines that the moneys of the fund  
3           are in excess of current needs, the Secretary  
4           may request the investment of such amounts as  
5           the Secretary determines advisable by the Sec-  
6           retary of the Treasury in obligations issued or  
7           guaranteed by the United States.

8           “(g) EXCESS/STOP LOSS INSURANCE.—For purposes  
9 of this section—

10           “(1) AGGREGATE EXCESS/STOP LOSS INSUR-  
11           ANCE.—The term ‘aggregate excess/stop loss insur-  
12           ance’ means, in connection with an association  
13           health plan, a contract—

14           “(A) under which an insurer (meeting such  
15           minimum standards as the applicable authority  
16           may prescribe by regulation) provides for pay-  
17           ment to the plan with respect to aggregate  
18           claims under the plan in excess of an amount  
19           or amounts specified in such contract;

20           “(B) which is guaranteed renewable; and

21           “(C) which allows for payment of pre-  
22           miums by any third party on behalf of the in-  
23           sured plan.

24           “(2) SPECIFIC EXCESS/STOP LOSS INSUR-  
25           ANCE.—The term ‘specific excess/stop loss insur-



1       ance’ means, in connection with an association  
2       health plan, a contract—

3               “(A) under which an insurer (meeting such  
4               minimum standards as the applicable authority  
5               may prescribe by regulation) provides for pay-  
6               ment to the plan with respect to claims under  
7               the plan in connection with a covered individual  
8               in excess of an amount or amounts specified in  
9               such contract in connection with such covered  
10              individual;

11              “(B) which is guaranteed renewable; and

12              “(C) which allows for payment of pre-  
13              miums by any third party on behalf of the in-  
14              sured plan.

15       “(h) INDEMNIFICATION INSURANCE.—For purposes  
16 of this section, the term ‘indemnification insurance’  
17 means, in connection with an association health plan, a  
18 contract—

19              “(1) under which an insurer (meeting such min-  
20              imum standards as the applicable authority may pre-  
21              scribe by regulation) provides for payment to the  
22              plan with respect to claims under the plan which the  
23              plan is unable to satisfy by reason of a termination  
24              pursuant to section 809(b) (relating to mandatory  
25              termination);

1           “(2) which is guaranteed renewable and  
2           noncancellable for any reason (except as the applica-  
3           ble authority may prescribe by regulation); and

4           “(3) which allows for payment of premiums by  
5           any third party on behalf of the insured plan.

6           “(i) RESERVES.—For purposes of this section, the  
7           term ‘reserves’ means, in connection with an association  
8           health plan, plan assets which meet the fiduciary stand-  
9           ards under part 4 and such additional requirements re-  
10          garding liquidity as the applicable authority may prescribe  
11          by regulation.

12          “(j) SOLVENCY STANDARDS WORKING GROUP.—

13                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 90 days after the  
14                 date of the enactment of the Small Business Health  
15                 Fairness Act of 2017, the applicable authority shall  
16                 establish a Solvency Standards Working Group. In  
17                 prescribing the initial regulations under this section,  
18                 the applicable authority shall take into account the  
19                 recommendations of such Working Group.

20                 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Working Group shall  
21                 consist of not more than 15 members appointed by  
22                 the applicable authority. The applicable authority  
23                 shall include among persons invited to membership  
24                 on the Working Group at least one of each of the  
25                 following:

1           “(A) A representative of the National As-  
2           sociation of Insurance Commissioners.

3           “(B) A representative of the American  
4           Academy of Actuaries.

5           “(C) A representative of the State govern-  
6           ments, or their interests.

7           “(D) A representative of existing self-in-  
8           sured arrangements, or their interests.

9           “(E) A representative of associations of  
10          the type referred to in section 801(b)(1), or  
11          their interests.

12          “(F) A representative of multiemployer  
13          plans that are group health plans, or their in-  
14          terests.

15   **“SEC. 807. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION AND RE-**  
16                   **LATED REQUIREMENTS.**

17          “(a) FILING FEE.—Under the procedure prescribed  
18          pursuant to section 802(a), an association health plan  
19          shall pay to the applicable authority at the time of filing  
20          an application for certification under this part a filing fee  
21          in the amount of \$5,000, which shall be available in the  
22          case of the Secretary, to the extent provided in appropria-  
23          tion Acts, for the sole purpose of administering the certifi-  
24          cation procedures applicable with respect to association  
25          health plans.

1       “(b) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN APPLICA-  
2 TION FOR CERTIFICATION.—An application for certifi-  
3 cation under this part meets the requirements of this sec-  
4 tion only if it includes, in a manner and form which shall  
5 be prescribed by the applicable authority by regulation, at  
6 least the following information:

7               “(1) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—The names  
8 and addresses of—

9                       “(A) the sponsor; and

10                      “(B) the members of the board of trustees  
11 of the plan.

12               “(2) STATES IN WHICH PLAN INTENDS TO DO  
13 BUSINESS.—The States in which participants and  
14 beneficiaries under the plan are to be located and  
15 the number of them expected to be located in each  
16 such State.

17               “(3) BONDING REQUIREMENTS.—Evidence pro-  
18 vided by the board of trustees that the bonding re-  
19 quirements of section 412 will be met as of the date  
20 of the application or (if later) commencement of op-  
21 erations.

22               “(4) PLAN DOCUMENTS.—A copy of the docu-  
23 ments governing the plan (including any bylaws and  
24 trust agreements), the summary plan description,  
25 and other material describing the benefits that will

1 be provided to participants and beneficiaries under  
2 the plan.

3 “(5) AGREEMENTS WITH SERVICE PRO-  
4 VIDERS.—A copy of any agreements between the  
5 plan and contract administrators and other service  
6 providers.

7 “(6) FUNDING REPORT.—In the case of asso-  
8 ciation health plans providing benefits options in ad-  
9 dition to health insurance coverage, a report setting  
10 forth information with respect to such additional  
11 benefit options determined as of a date within the  
12 120-day period ending with the date of the applica-  
13 tion, including the following:

14 “(A) RESERVES.—A statement, certified  
15 by the board of trustees of the plan, and a  
16 statement of actuarial opinion, signed by a  
17 qualified actuary, that all applicable require-  
18 ments of section 806 are or will be met in ac-  
19 cordance with regulations which the applicable  
20 authority shall prescribe.

21 “(B) ADEQUACY OF CONTRIBUTION  
22 RATES.—A statement of actuarial opinion,  
23 signed by a qualified actuary, which sets forth  
24 a description of the extent to which contribution  
25 rates are adequate to provide for the payment

1 of all obligations and the maintenance of re-  
2 quired reserves under the plan for the 12-  
3 month period beginning with such date within  
4 such 120-day period, taking into account the  
5 expected coverage and experience of the plan. If  
6 the contribution rates are not fully adequate,  
7 the statement of actuarial opinion shall indicate  
8 the extent to which the rates are inadequate  
9 and the changes needed to ensure adequacy.

10 “(C) CURRENT AND PROJECTED VALUE OF  
11 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—A statement of ac-  
12 tuarial opinion signed by a qualified actuary,  
13 which sets forth the current value of the assets  
14 and liabilities accumulated under the plan and  
15 a projection of the assets, liabilities, income,  
16 and expenses of the plan for the 12-month pe-  
17 riod referred to in subparagraph (B). The in-  
18 come statement shall identify separately the  
19 plan’s administrative expenses and claims.

20 “(D) COSTS OF COVERAGE TO BE  
21 CHARGED AND OTHER EXPENSES.—A state-  
22 ment of the costs of coverage to be charged, in-  
23 cluding an itemization of amounts for adminis-  
24 tration, reserves, and other expenses associated  
25 with the operation of the plan.

1                   “(E) OTHER INFORMATION.—Any other  
2                   information as may be determined by the appli-  
3                   cable authority, by regulation, as necessary to  
4                   carry out the purposes of this part.

5           “(c) FILING NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION WITH  
6 STATES.—A certification granted under this part to an  
7 association health plan shall not be effective unless written  
8 notice of such certification is filed with the applicable  
9 State authority of each State in which at least 25 percent  
10 of the participants and beneficiaries under the plan are  
11 located. For purposes of this subsection, an individual  
12 shall be considered to be located in the State in which a  
13 known address of such individual is located or in which  
14 such individual is employed.

15          “(d) NOTICE OF MATERIAL CHANGES.—In the case  
16 of any association health plan certified under this part,  
17 descriptions of material changes in any information which  
18 was required to be submitted with the application for the  
19 certification under this part shall be filed in such form  
20 and manner as shall be prescribed by the applicable au-  
21 thority by regulation. The applicable authority may re-  
22 quire by regulation prior notice of material changes with  
23 respect to specified matters which might serve as the basis  
24 for suspension or revocation of the certification.

1       “(e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN AS-  
2 SOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.—An association health plan  
3 certified under this part which provides benefit options in  
4 addition to health insurance coverage for such plan year  
5 shall meet the requirements of section 103 by filing an  
6 annual report under such section which shall include infor-  
7 mation described in subsection (b)(6) with respect to the  
8 plan year and, notwithstanding section 104(a)(1)(A), shall  
9 be filed with the applicable authority not later than 90  
10 days after the close of the plan year (or on such later date  
11 as may be prescribed by the applicable authority). The ap-  
12 plicable authority may require by regulation such interim  
13 reports as it considers appropriate.

14       “(f) ENGAGEMENT OF QUALIFIED ACTUARY.—The  
15 board of trustees of each association health plan which  
16 provides benefits options in addition to health insurance  
17 coverage and which is applying for certification under this  
18 part or is certified under this part shall engage, on behalf  
19 of all participants and beneficiaries, a qualified actuary  
20 who shall be responsible for the preparation of the mate-  
21 rials comprising information necessary to be submitted by  
22 a qualified actuary under this part. The qualified actuary  
23 shall utilize such assumptions and techniques as are nec-  
24 essary to enable such actuary to form an opinion as to



1 whether the contents of the matters reported under this  
2 part—

3 “(1) are in the aggregate reasonably related to  
4 the experience of the plan and to reasonable expecta-  
5 tions; and

6 “(2) represent such actuary’s best estimate of  
7 anticipated experience under the plan.

8 The opinion by the qualified actuary shall be made with  
9 respect to, and shall be made a part of, the annual report.

10 **“SEC. 808. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTARY TER-**  
11 **MINATION.**

12 “Except as provided in section 809(b), an association  
13 health plan which is or has been certified under this part  
14 may terminate (upon or at any time after cessation of ac-  
15 cruals in benefit liabilities) only if the board of trustees,  
16 not less than 60 days before the proposed termination  
17 date—

18 “(1) provides to the participants and bene-  
19 ficiaries a written notice of intent to terminate stat-  
20 ing that such termination is intended and the pro-  
21 posed termination date;

22 “(2) develops a plan for winding up the affairs  
23 of the plan in connection with such termination in  
24 a manner which will result in timely payment of all  
25 benefits for which the plan is obligated; and

1           “(3) submits such plan in writing to the appli-  
2           cable authority.

3   Actions required under this section shall be taken in such  
4   form and manner as may be prescribed by the applicable  
5   authority by regulation.

6   **“SEC. 809. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND MANDATORY TERMI-**  
7           **NATION.**

8           “(a) ACTIONS TO AVOID DEPLETION OF RE-  
9   SERVES.—An association health plan which is certified  
10   under this part and which provides benefits other than  
11   health insurance coverage shall continue to meet the re-  
12   quirements of section 806, irrespective of whether such  
13   certification continues in effect. The board of trustees of  
14   such plan shall determine quarterly whether the require-  
15   ments of section 806 are met. In any case in which the  
16   board determines that there is reason to believe that there  
17   is or will be a failure to meet such requirements, or the  
18   applicable authority makes such a determination and so  
19   notifies the board, the board shall immediately notify the  
20   qualified actuary engaged by the plan, and such actuary  
21   shall, not later than the end of the next following month,  
22   make such recommendations to the board for corrective  
23   action as the actuary determines necessary to ensure com-  
24   pliance with section 806. Not later than 30 days after re-  
25   ceiving from the actuary recommendations for corrective

1 actions, the board shall notify the applicable authority (in  
2 such form and manner as the applicable authority may  
3 prescribe by regulation) of such recommendations of the  
4 actuary for corrective action, together with a description  
5 of the actions (if any) that the board has taken or plans  
6 to take in response to such recommendations. The board  
7 shall thereafter report to the applicable authority, in such  
8 form and frequency as the applicable authority may speci-  
9 fy to the board, regarding corrective action taken by the  
10 board until the requirements of section 806 are met.

11 “(b) MANDATORY TERMINATION.—In any case in  
12 which—

13 “(1) the applicable authority has been notified  
14 under subsection (a) (or by an issuer of excess/stop  
15 loss insurance or indemnity insurance pursuant to  
16 section 806(a)) of a failure of an association health  
17 plan which is or has been certified under this part  
18 and is described in section 806(a)(2) to meet the re-  
19 quirements of section 806 and has not been notified  
20 by the board of trustees of the plan that corrective  
21 action has restored compliance with such require-  
22 ments; and

23 “(2) the applicable authority determines that  
24 there is a reasonable expectation that the plan will

1 continue to fail to meet the requirements of section  
2 806,  
3 the board of trustees of the plan shall, at the direction  
4 of the applicable authority, terminate the plan and, in the  
5 course of the termination, take such actions as the appli-  
6 cable authority may require, including satisfying any  
7 claims referred to in section 806(a)(2)(B)(iii) and recov-  
8 ering for the plan any liability under subsection  
9 (a)(2)(B)(iii) or (e) of section 806, as necessary to ensure  
10 that the affairs of the plan will be, to the maximum extent  
11 possible, wound up in a manner which will result in timely  
12 provision of all benefits for which the plan is obligated.

13 **“SEC. 810. TRUSTEESHIP BY THE SECRETARY OF INSOL-**  
14 **VENT ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS PRO-**  
15 **VIDING HEALTH BENEFITS IN ADDITION TO**  
16 **HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.**

17 “(a) APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY AS TRUSTEE FOR  
18 INSOLVENT PLANS.—Whenever the Secretary determines  
19 that an association health plan which is or has been cer-  
20 tified under this part and which is described in section  
21 806(a)(2) will be unable to provide benefits when due or  
22 is otherwise in a financially hazardous condition, as shall  
23 be defined by the Secretary by regulation, the Secretary  
24 shall, upon notice to the plan, apply to the appropriate  
25 United States district court for appointment of the Sec-

1   retary as trustee to administer the plan for the duration  
2   of the insolvency. The plan may appear as a party and  
3   other interested persons may intervene in the proceedings  
4   at the discretion of the court. The court shall appoint such  
5   Secretary trustee if the court determines that the trustee-  
6   ship is necessary to protect the interests of the partici-  
7   pants and beneficiaries or providers of medical care or to  
8   avoid any unreasonable deterioration of the financial con-  
9   dition of the plan. The trusteeship of such Secretary shall  
10  continue until the conditions described in the first sen-  
11  tence of this subsection are remedied or the plan is termi-  
12  nated.

13       “(b) POWERS AS TRUSTEE.—The Secretary, upon  
14  appointment as trustee under subsection (a), shall have  
15  the power—

16           “(1) to do any act authorized by the plan, this  
17       title, or other applicable provisions of law to be done  
18       by the plan administrator or any trustee of the plan;

19           “(2) to require the transfer of all (or any part)  
20       of the assets and records of the plan to the Sec-  
21       retary as trustee;

22           “(3) to invest any assets of the plan which the  
23       Secretary holds in accordance with the provisions of  
24       the plan, regulations prescribed by the Secretary,  
25       and applicable provisions of law;

1           “(4) to require the sponsor, the plan adminis-  
2           trator, any participating employer, and any employee  
3           organization representing plan participants to fur-  
4           nish any information with respect to the plan which  
5           the Secretary as trustee may reasonably need in  
6           order to administer the plan;

7           “(5) to collect for the plan any amounts due the  
8           plan and to recover reasonable expenses of the trust-  
9           eeship;

10          “(6) to commence, prosecute, or defend on be-  
11          half of the plan any suit or proceeding involving the  
12          plan;

13          “(7) to issue, publish, or file such notices, state-  
14          ments, and reports as may be required by the Sec-  
15          retary by regulation or required by any order of the  
16          court;

17          “(8) to terminate the plan (or provide for its  
18          termination in accordance with section 809(b)) and  
19          liquidate the plan assets, to restore the plan to the  
20          responsibility of the sponsor, or to continue the  
21          trusteeship;

22          “(9) to provide for the enrollment of plan par-  
23          ticipants and beneficiaries under appropriate cov-  
24          erage options; and

1           “(10) to do such other acts as may be nec-  
2           essary to comply with this title or any order of the  
3           court and to protect the interests of plan partici-  
4           pants and beneficiaries and providers of medical  
5           care.

6           “(c) NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT.—As soon as prac-  
7           ticable after the Secretary’s appointment as trustee, the  
8           Secretary shall give notice of such appointment to—

9           “(1) the sponsor and plan administrator;

10           “(2) each participant;

11           “(3) each participating employer; and

12           “(4) if applicable, each employee organization  
13           which, for purposes of collective bargaining, rep-  
14           resents plan participants.

15           “(d) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—Except to the extent in-  
16           consistent with the provisions of this title, or as may be  
17           otherwise ordered by the court, the Secretary, upon ap-  
18           pointment as trustee under this section, shall be subject  
19           to the same duties as those of a trustee under section 704  
20           of title 11, United States Code, and shall have the duties  
21           of a fiduciary for purposes of this title.

22           “(e) OTHER PROCEEDINGS.—An application by the  
23           Secretary under this subsection may be filed notwith-  
24           standing the pendency in the same or any other court of  
25           any bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure, or equity receiver-

1 ship proceeding, or any proceeding to reorganize, conserve,  
2 or liquidate such plan or its property, or any proceeding  
3 to enforce a lien against property of the plan.

4 “(f) JURISDICTION OF COURT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the filing of an appli-  
6 cation for the appointment as trustee or the issuance  
7 of a decree under this section, the court to which the  
8 application is made shall have exclusive jurisdiction  
9 of the plan involved and its property wherever lo-  
10 cated with the powers, to the extent consistent with  
11 the purposes of this section, of a court of the United  
12 States having jurisdiction over cases under chapter  
13 11 of title 11, United States Code. Pending an adju-  
14 dication under this section such court shall stay, and  
15 upon appointment by it of the Secretary as trustee,  
16 such court shall continue the stay of, any pending  
17 mortgage foreclosure, equity receivership, or other  
18 proceeding to reorganize, conserve, or liquidate the  
19 plan, the sponsor, or property of such plan or spon-  
20 sor, and any other suit against any receiver, conser-  
21 vator, or trustee of the plan, the sponsor, or prop-  
22 erty of the plan or sponsor. Pending such adjudica-  
23 tion and upon the appointment by it of the Sec-  
24 retary as trustee, the court may stay any proceeding  
25 to enforce a lien against property of the plan or the



1 sponsor or any other suit against the plan or the  
2 sponsor.

3 “(2) VENUE.—An action under this section  
4 may be brought in the judicial district where the  
5 sponsor or the plan administrator resides or does  
6 business or where any asset of the plan is situated.  
7 A district court in which such action is brought may  
8 issue process with respect to such action in any  
9 other judicial district.

10 “(g) PERSONNEL.—In accordance with regulations  
11 which shall be prescribed by the Secretary, the Secretary  
12 shall appoint, retain, and compensate accountants, actu-  
13 aries, and other professional service personnel as may be  
14 necessary in connection with the Secretary’s service as  
15 trustee under this section.

16 **“SEC. 811. STATE ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514, a  
18 State may impose by law a contribution tax on an associa-  
19 tion health plan described in section 806(a)(2), if the plan  
20 commenced operations in such State after the date of the  
21 enactment of the Small Business Health Fairness Act of  
22 2017.

23 “(b) CONTRIBUTION TAX.—For purposes of this sec-  
24 tion, the term ‘contribution tax’ imposed by a State on

1 an association health plan means any tax imposed by such  
2 State if—

3 “(1) such tax is computed by applying a rate to  
4 the amount of premiums or contributions, with re-  
5 spect to individuals covered under the plan who are  
6 residents of such State, which are received by the  
7 plan from participating employers located in such  
8 State or from such individuals;

9 “(2) the rate of such tax does not exceed the  
10 rate of any tax imposed by such State on premiums  
11 or contributions received by insurers or health main-  
12 tenance organizations for health insurance coverage  
13 offered in such State in connection with a group  
14 health plan;

15 “(3) such tax is otherwise nondiscriminatory;  
16 and

17 “(4) the amount of any such tax assessed on  
18 the plan is reduced by the amount of any tax or as-  
19 sessment otherwise imposed by the State on pre-  
20 miums, contributions, or both received by insurers or  
21 health maintenance organizations for health insur-  
22 ance coverage, aggregate excess/stop loss insurance  
23 (as defined in section 806(g)(1)), specific excess/stop  
24 loss insurance (as defined in section 806(g)(2)),  
25 other insurance related to the provision of medical

1 care under the plan, or any combination thereof pro-  
2 vided by such insurers or health maintenance organi-  
3 zations in such State in connection with such plan.

4 **“SEC. 812. DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this part—

6 “(1) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term ‘group  
7 health plan’ has the meaning provided in section  
8 733(a)(1) (after applying subsection (b) of this sec-  
9 tion).

10 “(2) MEDICAL CARE.—The term ‘medical care’  
11 has the meaning provided in section 733(a)(2).

12 “(3) HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—The  
13 term ‘health insurance coverage’ has the meaning  
14 provided in section 733(b)(1).

15 “(4) HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER.—The term  
16 ‘health insurance issuer’ has the meaning provided  
17 in section 733(b)(2).

18 “(5) APPLICABLE AUTHORITY.—The term ‘ap-  
19 plicable authority’ means the Secretary, except that,  
20 in connection with any exercise of the Secretary’s  
21 authority regarding which the Secretary is required  
22 under section 506(d) to consult with a State, such  
23 term means the Secretary, in consultation with such  
24 State.

1           “(6) HEALTH STATUS-RELATED FACTOR.—The  
2           term ‘health status-related factor’ has the meaning  
3           provided in section 733(d)(2).

4           “(7) INDIVIDUAL MARKET.—

5                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘individual  
6                 market’ means the market for health insurance  
7                 coverage offered to individuals other than in  
8                 connection with a group health plan.

9                 “(B) TREATMENT OF VERY SMALL  
10                GROUPS.—

11                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause  
12                         (ii), such term includes coverage offered in  
13                         connection with a group health plan that  
14                         has fewer than 2 participants as current  
15                         employees or participants described in sec-  
16                         tion 732(d)(3) on the first day of the plan  
17                         year.

18                         “(ii) STATE EXCEPTION.—Clause (i)  
19                         shall not apply in the case of health insur-  
20                         ance coverage offered in a State if such  
21                         State regulates the coverage described in  
22                         such clause in the same manner and to the  
23                         same extent as coverage in the small group  
24                         market (as defined in section 2791(e)(5) of

1                   the Public Health Service Act) is regulated  
2                   by such State.

3                   “(8) PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER.—The term  
4                   ‘participating employer’ means, in connection with  
5                   an association health plan, any employer, if any indi-  
6                   vidual who is an employee of such employer, a part-  
7                   ner in such employer, or a self-employed individual  
8                   who is such employer (or any dependent, as defined  
9                   under the terms of the plan, of such individual) is  
10                  or was covered under such plan in connection with  
11                  the status of such individual as such an employee,  
12                  partner, or self-employed individual in relation to the  
13                  plan.

14                  “(9) APPLICABLE STATE AUTHORITY.—The  
15                  term ‘applicable State authority’ means, with respect  
16                  to a health insurance issuer in a State, the State in-  
17                  surance commissioner or official or officials des-  
18                  ignated by the State to enforce the requirements of  
19                  title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act for the  
20                  State involved with respect to such issuer.

21                  “(10) QUALIFIED ACTUARY.—The term ‘quali-  
22                  fied actuary’ means an individual who is a member  
23                  of the American Academy of Actuaries.

24                  “(11) AFFILIATED MEMBER.—The term ‘affili-  
25                  ated member’ means, in connection with a sponsor—

1           “(A) a person who is otherwise eligible to  
2           be a member of the sponsor but who elects an  
3           affiliated status with the sponsor,

4           “(B) in the case of a sponsor with mem-  
5           bers which consist of associations, a person who  
6           is a member of any such association and elects  
7           an affiliated status with the sponsor, or

8           “(C) in the case of an association health  
9           plan in existence on the date of the enactment  
10          of the Small Business Health Fairness Act of  
11          2017, a person eligible to be a member of the  
12          sponsor or one of its member associations.

13          “(12) LARGE EMPLOYER.—The term ‘large em-  
14          ployer’ means, in connection with a group health  
15          plan with respect to a plan year, an employer who  
16          employed an average of at least 51 employees on  
17          business days during the preceding calendar year  
18          and who employs at least 2 employees on the first  
19          day of the plan year.

20          “(13) SMALL EMPLOYER.—The term ‘small em-  
21          ployer’ means, in connection with a group health  
22          plan with respect to a plan year, an employer who  
23          is not a large employer.

24          “(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

1           “(1) EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.—For pur-  
2           poses of determining whether a plan, fund, or pro-  
3           gram is an employee welfare benefit plan which is an  
4           association health plan, and for purposes of applying  
5           this title in connection with such plan, fund, or pro-  
6           gram so determined to be such an employee welfare  
7           benefit plan—

8                   “(A) in the case of a partnership, the term  
9                   ‘employer’ (as defined in section 3(5)) includes  
10                  the partnership in relation to the partners, and  
11                  the term ‘employee’ (as defined in section 3(6))  
12                  includes any partner in relation to the partner-  
13                  ship; and

14                  “(B) in the case of a self-employed indi-  
15                  vidual, the term ‘employer’ (as defined in sec-  
16                  tion 3(5)) and the term ‘employee’ (as defined  
17                  in section 3(6)) shall include such individual.

18           “(2) PLANS, FUNDS, AND PROGRAMS TREATED  
19           AS EMPLOYEE WELFARE BENEFIT PLANS.—In the  
20           case of any plan, fund, or program which was estab-  
21           lished or is maintained for the purpose of providing  
22           medical care (through the purchase of insurance or  
23           otherwise) for employees (or their dependents) cov-  
24           ered thereunder and which demonstrates to the Sec-  
25           retary that all requirements for certification under

1       this part would be met with respect to such plan,  
2       fund, or program if such plan, fund, or program  
3       were a group health plan, such plan, fund, or pro-  
4       gram shall be treated for purposes of this title as an  
5       employee welfare benefit plan on and after the date  
6       of such demonstration.”.

7       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO PREEMPTION  
8 RULES.—

9           (1) Section 514(b)(6) of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
10       1144(b)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the  
11       following new subparagraph:

12       “(E) The preceding subparagraphs of this paragraph  
13       do not apply with respect to any State law in the case  
14       of an association health plan which is certified under part  
15       8.”.

16           (2) Section 514 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1144)  
17       is amended—

18           (A) in subsection (b)(4), by striking “Sub-  
19       section (a)” and inserting “Subsections (a) and  
20       (f)”;

21           (B) in subsection (b)(5), by striking “sub-  
22       section (a)” in subparagraph (A) and inserting  
23       “subsection (a) of this section and subsections  
24       (a)(2)(B) and (b) of section 805”, and by strik-  
25       ing “subsection (a)” in subparagraph (B) and



1 inserting “subsection (a) of this section or sub-  
2 section (a)(2)(B) or (b) of section 805”; and  
3 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
4 subsection:

5 “(f)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b)(4), the  
6 provisions of this title shall supersede any and all State  
7 laws insofar as they may now or hereafter preclude, or  
8 have the effect of precluding, a health insurance issuer  
9 from offering health insurance coverage in connection with  
10 an association health plan which is certified under part  
11 8.

12 “(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5)  
13 of subsection (b) of this section—

14 “(A) In any case in which health insurance cov-  
15 erage of any policy type is offered under an associa-  
16 tion health plan certified under part 8 to a partici-  
17 pating employer operating in such State, the provi-  
18 sions of this title shall supersede any and all laws  
19 of such State insofar as they may preclude a health  
20 insurance issuer from offering health insurance cov-  
21 erage of the same policy type to other employers op-  
22 erating in the State which are eligible for coverage  
23 under such association health plan, whether or not  
24 such other employers are participating employers in  
25 such plan.

1           “(B) In any case in which health insurance cov-  
2           erage of any policy type is offered in a State under  
3           an association health plan certified under part 8 and  
4           the filing, with the applicable State authority (as de-  
5           fined in section 812(a)(9)), of the policy form in  
6           connection with such policy type is approved by such  
7           State authority, the provisions of this title shall su-  
8           persede any and all laws of any other State in which  
9           health insurance coverage of such type is offered, in-  
10          sofar as they may preclude, upon the filing in the  
11          same form and manner of such policy form with the  
12          applicable State authority in such other State, the  
13          approval of the filing in such other State.

14          “(3) Nothing in subsection (b)(6)(E) or the preceding  
15          provisions of this subsection shall be construed, with re-  
16          spect to health insurance issuers or health insurance cov-  
17          erage, to supersede or impair the law of any State—

18                 “(A) providing solvency standards or similar  
19                 standards regarding the adequacy of insurer capital,  
20                 surplus, reserves, or contributions, or

21                 “(B) relating to prompt payment of claims.

22          “(4) For additional provisions relating to association  
23          health plans, see subsections (a)(2)(B) and (b) of section  
24          805.

1       “(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘asso-  
2    ciation health plan’ has the meaning provided in section  
3    801(a), and the terms ‘health insurance coverage’, ‘par-  
4    ticipating employer’, and ‘health insurance issuer’ have  
5    the meanings provided such terms in section 812, respec-  
6    tively.”.

7           (3) Section 514(b)(6)(A) of such Act (29  
8    U.S.C. 1144(b)(6)(A)) is amended—

9           (A) in clause (i)(II), by striking “and” at  
10   the end;

11          (B) in clause (ii), by inserting “and which  
12   does not provide medical care (within the mean-  
13   ing of section 733(a)(2)),” after “arrange-  
14   ment,” and by striking “title.” and inserting  
15   “title, and”; and

16          (C) by adding at the end the following new  
17   clause:

18          “(iii) subject to subparagraph (E), in the case  
19   of any other employee welfare benefit plan which is  
20   a multiple employer welfare arrangement and which  
21   provides medical care (within the meaning of section  
22   733(a)(2)), any law of any State which regulates in-  
23   surance may apply.”.

24          (4) Section 514(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
25   1144(d)) is amended—

1 (A) by striking “Nothing” and inserting  
2 “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), noth-  
3 ing”; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
5 paragraph:

6 “(2) Nothing in any other provision of law enacted  
7 on or after the date of the enactment of the Small Busi-  
8 ness Health Fairness Act of 2017 shall be construed to  
9 alter, amend, modify, invalidate, impair, or supersede any  
10 provision of this title, except by specific cross-reference to  
11 the affected section.”.

12 (c) PLAN SPONSOR.—Section 3(16)(B) of such Act  
13 (29 U.S.C. 102(16)(B)) is amended by adding at the end  
14 the following new sentence: “Such term also includes a  
15 person serving as the sponsor of an association health plan  
16 under part 8.”.

17 (d) DISCLOSURE OF SOLVENCY PROTECTIONS RE-  
18 LATED TO SELF-INSURED AND FULLY INSURED OPTIONS  
19 UNDER ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.—Section 102(b)  
20 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 102(b)) is amended by adding at  
21 the end the following: “An association health plan shall  
22 include in its summary plan description, in connection  
23 with each benefit option, a description of the form of sol-  
24 vency or guarantee fund protection secured pursuant to  
25 this Act or applicable State law, if any.”.

1 (e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Section 731(c) of such Act is  
2 amended by inserting “or part 8” after “this part”.

3 (f) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS REGARDING CERTIFI-  
4 CATION OF SELF-INSURED ASSOCIATION HEALTH  
5 PLANS.—Not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary  
6 of Labor shall report to the Committee on Education and  
7 the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the  
8 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of  
9 the Senate the effect association health plans have had,  
10 if any, on reducing the number of uninsured individuals.

11 (g) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
12 in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security  
13 Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
14 ing to section 734 the following new items:

“PART 8. RULES GOVERNING ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS

“801. Association health plans.

“802. Certification of association health plans.

“803. Requirements relating to sponsors and boards of trustees.

“804. Participation and coverage requirements.

“805. Other requirements relating to plan documents, contribution rates, and  
benefit options.

“806. Maintenance of reserves and provisions for solvency for plans providing  
health benefits in addition to health insurance coverage.

“807. Requirements for application and related requirements.

“808. Notice requirements for voluntary termination.

“809. Corrective actions and mandatory termination.

“810. Trusteeship by the Secretary of insolvent association health plans pro-  
viding health benefits in addition to health insurance coverage.

“811. State assessment authority.

“812. Definitions and rules of construction.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF SINGLE EM-**  
2 **PLOYER ARRANGEMENTS.**

3 Section 3(40)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income  
4 Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(40)(B)) is amend-  
5 ed—

6 (1) in clause (i), by inserting after “control  
7 group,” the following: “except that, in any case in  
8 which the benefit referred to in subparagraph (A)  
9 consists of medical care (as defined in section  
10 812(a)(2)), two or more trades or businesses, wheth-  
11 er or not incorporated, shall be deemed a single em-  
12 ployer for any plan year of such plan, or any fiscal  
13 year of such other arrangement, if such trades or  
14 businesses are within the same control group during  
15 such year or at any time during the preceding 1-year  
16 period,”;

17 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “(iii) the deter-  
18 mination” and inserting the following:

19 “(iii)(I) in any case in which the benefit re-  
20 ferred to in subparagraph (A) consists of medical  
21 care (as defined in section 812(a)(2)), the deter-  
22 mination of whether a trade or business is under  
23 ‘common control’ with another trade or business  
24 shall be determined under regulations of the Sec-  
25 retary applying principles consistent and coextensive  
26 with the principles applied in determining whether

1 employees of two or more trades or businesses are  
2 treated as employed by a single employer under sec-  
3 tion 4001(b), except that, for purposes of this para-  
4 graph, an interest of greater than 25 percent may  
5 not be required as the minimum interest necessary  
6 for common control, or

7 “(II) in any other case, the determination”;

8 (3) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as  
9 clauses (v) and (vi), respectively; and

10 (4) by inserting after clause (iii) the following  
11 new clause:

12 “(iv) in any case in which the benefit referred  
13 to in subparagraph (A) consists of medical care (as  
14 defined in section 812(a)(2)), in determining, after  
15 the application of clause (i), whether benefits are  
16 provided to employees of two or more employers, the  
17 arrangement shall be treated as having only one par-  
18 ticipating employer if, after the application of clause  
19 (i), the number of individuals who are employees and  
20 former employees of any one participating employer  
21 and who are covered under the arrangement is  
22 greater than 75 percent of the aggregate number of  
23 all individuals who are employees or former employ-  
24 ees of participating employers and who are covered  
25 under the arrangement.”.

1 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS RELATING TO ASSO-**  
2 **CIATION HEALTH PLANS.**

3 (a) CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN WILLFUL  
4 MISREPRESENTATIONS.—Section 501 of the Employee  
5 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1131)  
6 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
7 section:

8 “(c) Any person who willfully falsely represents, to  
9 any employee, any employee’s beneficiary, any employer,  
10 the Secretary, or any State, a plan or other arrangement  
11 established or maintained for the purpose of offering or  
12 providing any benefit described in section 3(1) to employ-  
13 ees or their beneficiaries as—

14 “(1) being an association health plan which has  
15 been certified under part 8;

16 “(2) having been established or maintained  
17 under or pursuant to one or more collective bar-  
18 gaining agreements which are reached pursuant to  
19 collective bargaining described in section 8(d) of the  
20 National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(d)) or  
21 paragraph Fourth of section 2 of the Railway Labor  
22 Act (45 U.S.C. 152, paragraph Fourth) or which are  
23 reached pursuant to labor-management negotiations  
24 under similar provisions of State public employee re-  
25 lations laws; or



1           “(3) being a plan or arrangement described in  
2           section 3(40)(A)(i),  
3 shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned not more than 5  
4 years, be fined under title 18, United States Code, or  
5 both.”.

6           (b) CEASE ACTIVITIES ORDERS.—Section 502 of the  
7 Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29  
8 U.S.C. 1132) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing new subsection:

10          “(n) ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLAN CEASE AND DE-  
11 SIST ORDERS.—

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
13 upon application by the Secretary showing the oper-  
14 ation, promotion, or marketing of an association  
15 health plan (or similar arrangement providing bene-  
16 fits consisting of medical care (as defined in section  
17 733(a)(2))) that—

18           “(A) is not certified under part 8, is sub-  
19 ject under section 514(b)(6) to the insurance  
20 laws of any State in which the plan or arrange-  
21 ment offers or provides benefits, and is not li-  
22 censed, registered, or otherwise approved under  
23 the insurance laws of such State; or

24           “(B) is an association health plan certified  
25 under part 8 and is not operating in accordance

1 with the requirements under part 8 for such  
2 certification,  
3 a district court of the United States shall enter an  
4 order requiring that the plan or arrangement cease  
5 activities.

6 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not  
7 apply in the case of an association health plan or  
8 other arrangement if the plan or arrangement shows  
9 that—

10 “(A) all benefits under it referred to in  
11 paragraph (1) consist of health insurance cov-  
12 erage; and

13 “(B) with respect to each State in which  
14 the plan or arrangement offers or provides ben-  
15 efits, the plan or arrangement is operating in  
16 accordance with applicable State laws that are  
17 not superseded under section 514.

18 “(3) ADDITIONAL EQUITABLE RELIEF.—The  
19 court may grant such additional equitable relief, in-  
20 cluding any relief available under this title, as it  
21 deems necessary to protect the interests of the pub-  
22 lic and of persons having claims for benefits against  
23 the plan.”.

24 (c) RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLAIMS PROCEDURE.—  
25 Section 503 of the Employee Retirement Income Security

1 Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1133) is amended by inserting  
2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before “In accordance”, and by  
3 adding at the end the following new subsection:

4 “(b) ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.—The terms of  
5 each association health plan which is or has been certified  
6 under part 8 shall require the board of trustees or the  
7 named fiduciary (as applicable) to ensure that the require-  
8 ments of this section are met in connection with claims  
9 filed under the plan.”.

10 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AU-**  
11 **THORITIES.**

12 Section 506 of the Employee Retirement Income Se-  
13 curity Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1136) is amended by adding  
14 at the end the following new subsection:

15 “(d) CONSULTATION WITH STATES WITH RESPECT  
16 TO ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS.—

17 “(1) AGREEMENTS WITH STATES.—The Sec-  
18 retary shall consult with the State recognized under  
19 paragraph (2) with respect to an association health  
20 plan regarding the exercise of—

21 “(A) the Secretary’s authority under sec-  
22 tions 502 and 504 to enforce the requirements  
23 for certification under part 8; and

24 “(B) the Secretary’s authority to certify  
25 association health plans under part 8 in accord-

1           ance with regulations of the Secretary applica-  
2           ble to certification under part 8.

3           “(2) RECOGNITION OF PRIMARY DOMICILE  
4           STATE.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Sec-  
5           retary shall ensure that only one State will be recog-  
6           nized, with respect to any particular association  
7           health plan, as the State with which consultation is  
8           required. In carrying out this paragraph—

9                   “(A) in the case of a plan which provides  
10           health insurance coverage (as defined in section  
11           812(a)(3)), such State shall be the State with  
12           which filing and approval of a policy type of-  
13           fered by the plan was initially obtained, and

14                   “(B) in any other case, the Secretary shall  
15           take into account the places of residence of the  
16           participants and beneficiaries under the plan  
17           and the State in which the trust is main-  
18           tained.”.

19   **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITIONAL AND OTHER**  
20                   **RULES.**

21           (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
22   this Act shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enact-  
23   ment of this Act. The Secretary of Labor shall first issue  
24   all regulations necessary to carry out the amendments

1 made by this Act within 1 year after the date of the enact-  
2 ment of this Act.

3 (b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN EXISTING HEALTH  
4 BENEFITS PROGRAMS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which, as of  
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, an arrange-  
7 ment is maintained in a State for the purpose of  
8 providing benefits consisting of medical care for the  
9 employees and beneficiaries of its participating em-  
10 ployers, at least 200 participating employers make  
11 contributions to such arrangement, such arrange-  
12 ment has been in existence for at least 10 years, and  
13 such arrangement is licensed under the laws of one  
14 or more States to provide such benefits to its par-  
15 ticipating employers, upon the filing with the appli-  
16 cable authority (as defined in section 812(a)(5) of  
17 the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of  
18 1974 (as amended by this subtitle)) by the arrange-  
19 ment of an application for certification of the ar-  
20 rangement under part 8 of subtitle B of title I of  
21 such Act—

22 (A) such arrangement shall be deemed to  
23 be a group health plan for purposes of title I  
24 of such Act;

1 (B) the requirements of sections 801(a)  
2 and 803(a) of the Employee Retirement Income  
3 Security Act of 1974 shall be deemed met with  
4 respect to such arrangement;

5 (C) the requirements of section 803(b) of  
6 such Act shall be deemed met, if the arrange-  
7 ment is operated by a board of directors  
8 which—

9 (i) is elected by the participating em-  
10 ployers, with each employer having one  
11 vote; and

12 (ii) has complete fiscal control over  
13 the arrangement and which is responsible  
14 for all operations of the arrangement;

15 (D) the requirements of section 804(a) of  
16 such Act shall be deemed met with respect to  
17 such arrangement; and

18 (E) the arrangement may be certified by  
19 any applicable authority with respect to its op-  
20 erations in any State only if it operates in such  
21 State on the date of certification.

22 The provisions of this subsection shall cease to apply  
23 with respect to any such arrangement at such time  
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act as the

1 applicable requirements of this subsection are not  
2 met with respect to such arrangement.

3 (2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-  
4 section, the terms “group health plan”, “medical  
5 care”, and “participating employer” shall have the  
6 meanings provided in section 812 of the Employee  
7 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, except  
8 that the reference in paragraph (7) of such section  
9 to an “association health plan” shall be deemed a  
10 reference to an arrangement referred to in this sub-  
11 section.

